

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/798,661

Examiner

Linh M. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

LEI ET AL.

Art Unit

2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicants' filing on 03/11/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 11 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 05/13/05.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-20 are currently presented in the instant application according to the Applicants' filing on 03/11/2004.

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicants' representative, James Murphy, on 05/13/2005.

The Examiner's Amendment includes:

CLAIMS:

Claim 7, line 1, delete "the" (second occurrence, in front of "non-settled");

Claim 8, line 1, add --transistor-- after "source";

Claim 11, line 6, delete "and first"; and

Claim 18, line 3, delete "the" (in front of "non-settled");

Replace "opamp" with --operational amplifier--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-20 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest:

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a) A driver circuit with a current source transistor for setting a current controlling a voltage drop across a feedback element, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations, as called for in independent claim 1;

b) A method of voltage level shifting including a step of generating a voltage drop across a feedback element coupling an input and an output of an operational amplifier circuit by setting a current through a current source transistor, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations, as called for in independent claim 6; and

c) A digital to analog converter with a level shifter for controlling a voltage on first and second signal lines, the level shifter including first and second current source transistors for respectively pulling current from the first and second signal lines; and chopper circuitry coupled to the first and second current source transistors for shifting flicker noise to a higher frequency spectrum, as called for in independent claim 11.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Linh M. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1749. The examiner can normally be reached on Alternate Fri, Monday - Thursday from 7:00 to 4:30.

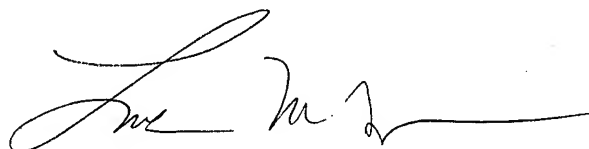
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan can be reached on (571) 272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Linh M. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2816

LMN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linh M. Nguyen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.